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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1097 (1997) adopted by the Security Council on 18 February 1997 by which the Council endorsed the five-point peace plan for eastern Zaire set out in my letter of the same date (S/1997/136).

The joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun, has just informed me that Mr. Gérard Kamanda wa Kamanda, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zaire, had issued a statement in Paris formally declaring his Government's acceptance of the United Nations peace plan.

I have the pleasure to enclose a copy of that statement, which I should be grateful if you would bring to the attention of the members of the Security Council. It is my fervent hope that all the other parties will declare without delay their adherence to the peace plan so that we can turn our collective attention to the pressing task of devising the practical modalities for its implementation.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

Annex

[Original: French]

Statement issued on 5 March 1997 by the Government of the Republic of Zaire

1. The legal institutions of the Republic of Zaire, in particular the President of the Republic, His Excellency Marshal Mobutu Sésé Séko and the Zairian Government, represented by His Excellency Léon Kengo wa Dondo, Prime Minister and Head of Government, have accepted the five-point peace plan presented by Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun, the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative and contained in Security Council resolution 1097 (1997) of 18 February 1997.

2. The President and the Government of the Republic of Zaire request the immediate deployment of an international monitoring mechanism in order to implement the peace plan of Mr. Sahnoun and the Security Council and to conduct on-site verification of the withdrawal of all foreign troops, including mercenaries and militias.

3. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zaire has been authorized to issue the present statement, on Wednesday, 5 March 1997, and to so inform Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun, the Joint United Nations/ Organization of African Unity Special Representative.

Done at Paris on 5 March 1997

For the Government,

(Signed) Gérard KAMANDA wa KAMANDA
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Zaire